IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly amend the specification as follows. No new matter has been added to the specification.

Please replace the second paragraph beginning on page 12, with the following new paragraph.

Fig. 4 4A is a schematic view illustrating a general configuration of a double-chamber type heat-treating furnace according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

Please add the following paragraphs after the second paragraph beginning on page 12.

Fig. 4B is a side view of element 1 of Fig. 4A.

Figs. 4A and 4B shall collectively be referred to herein as Fig. 4.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 3 with the following new paragraph.

Push-pull member 34 moves horizontally while being engaged with the object 1 thereby horizontally pushing or pulling the object. In the illustrated embodiment, push-pull member 34 may preferably be a long or slender member so that when a rearmost end thereof (the left-hand end in Fig. 4) comes to a position close to the left, or first, side of heating chamber 12 in the drawing, a frontmost end thereof (the right-hand end in Fig. 4) arrives at a position located inside cooling chamber 22. Also, this push-pull member 34 has, at its frontmost end, an engaging member 35 capable of turning up or lying down, and is configured in a manner such that either the turning-up motion or lying-down motion of the push-pull member 34 may be operated whenever required, by an actuator (not shown) incorporated in the rearmost end of push-pull member 34. Due to the turning-up motion and

lying down motion, the engaging member 35 may alternatively come to either a higher position thereof or a lower position thereof at any time. Thus, upon being turned up to the higher position, it can be engaged with the object 1 (or its mounting bed) so as to horizontally push or pull the object 1, and upon being lied down, it can move horizontally without engaging of the engaging member with the object (or its mounting bed).